AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An isolated and purified *Escherichia coli* strain comprising an inactivated chromosomal threonine degradation-associated operon (*tdcBC*) ~~operon~~ and an inactivated phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase (*pckA*) gene.

2. (original) The *Escherichia coli* strain as set forth in claim 1, wherein the *pckA* gene is inactivated by introducing a foreign *pckA* gene fragment containing an antibiotic resistance gene having a site-specific recombinase binding site at each of both ends thereof into a parent *Escherichia coli* strain containing an L-threonine degradation-associated operon, *tdcBC*, that is inactivated, and then allowing homologous recombination between the foreign *pckA* gene fragment and the *pckA* gene on chromosome to inactivate the chromosomal *pckA* gene.

3. (original) The *Escherichia coli* strain as set forth in claim 2, wherein the *pckA* gene is inactivated by removal of the antibiotic resistance gene incorporated thereinto by the activity of the site-specific recombinase expressed in the *Escherichia coli* strain and the presence of one copy of the binding site of the site-specific recombinase in the chromosomal *pckA* gene.

4. (original) The *Escherichia coli* strain as set forth in claim 2, wherein the site-specific recombinase is FLP, Cre or XerC/D.

5. (original) The *Escherichia coli* strain as set forth in claim 2, wherein the strain is *Escherichia coli* FTR2717 (KCCM-10475) comprising on chromosome a *pckA*

gene inactivated by introducing an exogenous *pckA* gene fragment containing an antibiotic resistance gene having a *loxP* site at each of both ends thereof into the parent *Escherichia coli* strain containing the L-threonine degradation-associated operon, *tdcBC*, that is inactivated.

Claims 6-8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended) The *Escherichia coli* strain ~~of claim 1~~ comprising an inactivated chromosomal threonine degradation-associated operon (*tdcBC*) and an inactivated phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase (*pckA*) gene, wherein the strain:

(a) has resistance to threonine analogues, lysine analogues, isoleucine analogues, and methionine analogues compared to a corresponding wild-type strain thereof; and

(b) comprises in its chromosome:

(1) an endogenous phosphoenol pyruvate carboxylase (*ppc*) gene;

(2) an endogenous threonine operon containing *thrA*, *thrB* and *thrC* genes;

(3) one or more copies of an exogenous ppc gene; and

(4) one or more copies of an exogenous *thrA*, *thrB* and *thrC* genes.

Claims 10-12. (canceled)

13. (original) The *Escherichia coli* strain of claim 9, wherein the strain is *Escherichia coli* FTR2717 (Accession No. KCCM-10475).

Claims 14-22. (canceled).

23. (original) An isolated *Escherichia coli* strain FTR2717 (Accession No. KCCM-10475).

24. (previously presented) An isolated or purified L-threonine-producing strain of *Escherichia coli* wherein the chromosomal *tdcBC* operon and the chromosomal *pckA* gene have been inactivated.

25. (new) The *E.* coli strain of claim 1 or 24, wherein such strain produces a high concentration of L-threoninne when the concentration of the glucose in the medium surrounding such strain is very high.